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BIRTH AND INFANT MORTALITY STATISTICS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

[The following is taken from an article by Dr Vladimir Srb which appeared in Statistický Obzor (Statistical Review), Issue No 4, 1953, published by the Statni Urad Statisticky (State Statistical Office) in Prague. All information refers to the Czech provinces. Slovakia is not included.]

Since 1 January 1947 the Czechoslovak State Statistical Office has been instructed to differentiate between premature and full-time births in its mortality statistics for infants under one year. The Statistical Office inserted the following question in all infant death report forms: "Was it a full-time pregnancy?"

A previous estimate that 10 percent of all infant deaths consisted of those born prematurely was not reliable, since some doctors and maternity attendants disagreed as to what constituted a miscarriage or immature birth. Some doctors considered a variation between 28 to 36 weeks as a full-time pregnancy.

In their 1948 conferences held in Ottawa and Geneva, medical statisticians concluded that the term "premature" was not a true criterion and agreed on the term "immaturitis" to better describe the bodily development of the fetus.

The Czechoslovak Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Health issued directives establishing the following requirements for reporting births:

- a. Any fetus of 400 grams' weight and over must be reported.
- b. Stillborn infants under 400 grams' weight are to be reported as miscarriages.
- c. All other births are to be reported as births whether the child was alive or stillborn.

The following standard was established in determining whether the fetus is immature: For single births, any birth under 2,500 grams in weight and 48 centimeters in length; for multiple births, any birth under 1,800 grams in weight and 45 centimeters in length.

The following codes were established to facilitate the classification of infants:

<u>Weight (g)</u>	<u>Length (cm)</u>	<u>Code Number</u>
400-999	-36.9	1
1,000-1,249	37.0-38.9	2
1,250-1,499	39.0-40.9	3
1,500-1,999	41.0-42.9	4
2,000-2,499	43.0-44.9	5
2,500-2,999	45.0-46.9	6
3,000-3,499	47.0-48.9	7
3,500-3,999	49.0-50.9	8

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<u>Weight (g)</u>	<u>Length (cm)</u>	<u>Code Number</u>
4,000-4,499	51.0-52.9	9
4,500-4,999	53.0-54.9	a
5,000 +	55.0 +	b
Not given	Not given	0

The following table is a comparison of 1949 and 1950 births in the Czech provinces according to maturity or immaturity of the fetus:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Births</u>	<u>Including Immature*</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1949	188,219	4,932	2.6
1950	191,655	8,251	4.3

* 1950 figures are based on codes 1 through 5.

The following table is a comparison of live and stillborn births for the years 1949 and 1950:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Live Births</u>			<u>Stillborn</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>No of Immature</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>No of Immature</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1949	185,484	3,938	2.1	2,735	994	36.3
1950	188,341	6,716	3.6	3,314	1,535	46.3

The above figures for 1949 are incomplete, as a great many immature births were not reported, whereas the 1950 figures disclose that [almost] one half of the stillborn infants were also immature. Such information would not have been available under the old method of calculating such data, which method was based on length of pregnancy only.

The following table is a breakdown of 1950 births by sex, legitimacy, live and stillborn, and number of immature:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Live Births</u>			<u>Stillborn</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>No of Immature</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>No of Immature</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Legitimate boys	91,314	2,843	3.1	1,648	673	40.8
Legitimate girls	85,104	3,080	3.6	1,309	660	50.4
Illegitimate boys	6,176	413	6.7	190	101	53.1
Illegitimate girls	5,747	380	6.6	157	101	64.3
Total stillborn boys	--	--	--	1,838	774	42.0
Total stillborn girls	--	--	--	1,476	761	51.6
Total live boys	97,490	3,256	3.3	--	--	--
Total live girls	90,851	3,460	3.8	--	--	--

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The following table is a breakdown of 1950 births in krajs of the Czech provinces according to number of live and stillborn births and number of immature infants and fetuses:

<u>Kraj</u>	<u>Total Births</u>			<u>Live Births</u>			<u>Stillborn</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>No of Imma- ture</u>	<u>Per- cent</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>No of Imma- ture</u>	<u>Per- cent</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>No of Imma- ture</u>	<u>Per- cent</u>
City of Prague	14,835	738	5.0	14,609	619	4.2	226	119	52.7
Prague (city excluded)	19,634	906	4.6	19,288	747	3.9	346	159	46.0
Ceske Budejovice	10,220	517	5.1	10,016	421	4.2	204	96	47.1
Plzen	10,527	421	4.0	10,333	326	3.2	194	95	49.0
Karlovy Vary	10,284	503	4.9	10,065	387	3.8	219	116	53.0
Usti nad Labem	17,425	831	4.8	17,090	671	3.9	335	160	47.8
Liberec	12,246	520	4.2	12,008	422	3.5	238	98	41.2
Hradec Kralove	11,120	405	3.6	10,939	340	3.1	181	65	35.9
Pardubice	8,359	331	4.0	8,219	267	3.2	140	64	45.7
Jihlava	8,638	298	3.4	8,498	251	3.0	140	47	33.6
Brno	20,320	833	4.1	20,000	676	3.4	320	157	49.1
Olomouc	14,678	535	3.6	14,482	442	3.1	196	93	47.4
Gottwaldov	14,076	568	4.0	13,862	472	3.4	214	96	44.9
Ostrava	19,293	845	4.4	18,932	675	3.6	361	170	47.1
Totals	191,655	8,251	4.3	188,341	6,716	3.6	3,314	1,535	46.3

The following table is a breakdown of 1950 births in krajs of the Czech provinces according to sex and weight. Weights are given in grams.

Kraj	Sex	Total Births	Under 1,000	1,000-1,249	1,250-1,499	1,500-1,999	2,000-2,499	2,500-2,999	3,000-3,499	3,500-3,999	4,000-4,499	4,500-4,999	5,000+	Not given
City of Prague	M	7,540	23	31	15	85	256	1,061	2,768	2,135	803	129	15	3
	F	7,069	29	20	13	94	311	1,347	3,022	1,740	490	52	9	2
Prague (city excluded)	M	9,932	26	29	39	130	309	1,204	3,544	3,099	1,282	224	44	2
	F	9,356	20	22	22	115	392	1,560	3,901	2,466	751	88	19	--
Ceske	M	5,198	15	14	13	58	196	617	1,797	1,632	691	123	40	2
	F	4,818	14	28	14	73	226	804	1,940	1,222	403	69	23	2
Plzen	M	5,337	7	22	20	61	190	639	1,927	1,637	663	137	34	--
	F	4,996	17	15	21	59	190	870	2,039	1,332	384	51	15	3
Karlovy Vary	M	5,260	16	24	16	66	187	612	1,857	1,600	688	155	35	4
	F	4,805	20	20	14	58	197	779	1,968	1,219	413	93	17	7
Usti nad Labem	M	8,820	36	35	30	103	289	956	2,945	2,820	1,214	303	75	10
	F	8,270	40	29	33	126	301	1,238	3,150	2,314	844	153	34	8
Liberec	M	6,199	9	19	19	79	206	661	2,197	2,017	795	168	27	2
	F	5,809	15	11	18	60	251	870	2,390	1,599	488	84	20	3
Hradec Kralove	M	5,660	10	20	18	58	172	731	2,052	1,747	731	105	15	1
	F	5,279	21	13	15	61	238	967	2,227	1,330	338	61	8	--
Pardubice	M	4,240	9	9	6	61	118	546	1,480	1,323	555	112	19	2
	F	3,979	6	6	19	55	167	720	1,671	1,003	227	47	7	1
Jihlava	M	4,389	5	7	13	44	153	478	1,620	1,398	567	86	18	--
	F	4,109	12	6	10	46	184	702	1,691	1,091	311	49	6	1
Brno	M	10,274	22	35	29	120	316	955	3,468	3,325	1,602	325	76	1
	F	9,726	20	39	29	125	342	1,335	4,038	2,680	925	170	42	1

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Olomouc	M	7,556	14	16	20	93	222	854	2,681	2,386	987	239	43	1
	F	6,926	15	18	28	53	255	1,121	2,909	1,856	538	117	14	2
Gottwaldov	M	7,191	14	28	26	78	234	692	2,439	2,323	1,047	259	50	1
	F	6,671	13	23	18	99	238	991	2,843	1,753	558	108	27	--
Ostrava	M	9,894	37	29	28	115	284	1,022	3,271	3,232	1,442	366	65	3
	F	9,038	30	20	26	114	358	1,343	3,491	2,556	900	165	31	4
Totals	M	97,490	243	322	292	1,151	3,132	11,028	34,046	30,890	13,067	2,731	556	32
	F	90,851	272	270	280	1,138	3,650	14,627	27,280	24,161	7,560	1,307	272	34

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The following is a breakdown of 1950 births according to occupation [of the father?] and employment status of the mother:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Total Births</u>	<u>No of Immature</u>	<u>Percent of Total Births</u>
Labor, trades, factory	101,726	6,667	6.6
Agricultural	31,271	2,063	6.6
Transportation	15,400	920	6.0
Commercial	9,129	565	6.1
Administrative	25,300	1,600	6.3
Health and social welfare	1,752	128	7.3
Teachers, scientists, artists	3,479	239	6.9
Services, personal and domestic	2,419	203	8.4
Unemployed	962	45	4.6
Not given	217	16	7.4
Mother employed	50,846	4,149	8.2
Mother unemployed	140,809	8,297	5.9

The following is a breakdown of infant deaths in 1950 in the Czech province, according to weight and sex:

<u>Wt (g)</u>	<u>Male</u>			<u>Female</u>		
	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Died in 1st Yr</u>	<u>Deaths per 1,000</u>	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Died in 1st Yr</u>	<u>Deaths per 1,000</u>
-1,000	243	206	847.7	272	219	805.1
1,000-1,249	322	285	885.0	270	226	837.0
1,250-1,499	292	236	808.2	280	208	742.9
1,500-1,999	1,151	694	602.9	1,138	489	429.7
2,000-2,499	3,132	728	232.4	3,650	527	144.4
2,500-2,999	11,028	921	83.5	14,627	841	57.5
3,000-3,499	34,046	1,629	47.8	37,280	1,302	34.9
3,500-3,999	30,890	1,290	41.8	24,161	865	35.8
4,000-4,499	13,067	496	38.0	7,560	263	34.8
4,500-4,999	2,731	128	46.9	1,307	64	49.0
5,000+	556	50	89.9	272	26	95.6
Not reported	32	227	--	34	168	--
Totals	97,490	6,890	70.7	90,851	5,198	57.2

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